

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/134,771

Examiner

Sumesh Kaushal Ph.D.

Applicant(s)

SAH ET AL.

Art Unit

1636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/07/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-25 and 27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08/12/98 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

JEFFREY FREDMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lawrence S. Graham on 02/02/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 26 was **canceled**.

Claims 1 and 6 were amended as below:

Claim 1 (*currently amended*). A method for producing a conditionally-immortalized human mesencephalon neural progenitor cell, comprising:

- (a) plating human mesencephalon cells on a first surface and in first growth medium that permits proliferation;
- (b) transfecting said progenitor cells with DNA encoding a selectable marker and an externally regulatable growth-promoting protein; and
- (c) selecting an adherent monolayer of the transfected cells on a second surface and in a second serum-free growth medium that permits attachment and proliferation, wherein the second serum-free growth medium comprises FGF-2, EGF and PDGF, and therefrom producing a conditionally immortalized human mesencephalon cells in which the growth-promoting protein is regulated by an external factor, such that suppression of the growth promoting protein results in differentiation of the cell into a neuron in the presence of differentiating agents comprising forskolin, GDNF, CNTF, IGF-1 and BDNF.

Claim 6 (*currently amended*). A conditionally-immortalized human mesencephalon neural progenitor cell capable of differentiation into neurons in the presence of differentiating agents comprising forskolin, GDNF, CNTF, IGF-1 and BDNF, wherein the cell is transfected with DNA encoding a growth-promoting protein that is regulated by an external factor, such that suppression of the growth-promoting protein results in differentiation of the cell into a neuron, and wherein the cell is polygonal and grows as an adherent monolayer.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE


The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-25 and 27 are free of prior art of record because prior art does not teach or suggest a conditionally-immortalized human mesencephalon neural progenitor cell and method of producing the same, wherein the conditionally-immortalized mesencephalon neural progenitor cell differentiate into neurons in the presence of differentiating agents comprising forskolin, GDNF, CNTF, IGF-1 and BDNF.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sumesh Kaushal Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-0769. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri. from 9AM-5PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Irem Yucel Ph.D. can be reached on 571-272-0781. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **703-872-9306**. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is **703-308-0196**.

S. Kaushal
PATENT EXAMINER


JEFFREY FREDMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER